

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 15147 230821Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 USIA-06 PA-01 INR-07 CIAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP ACT: CULCON VIII

REF: STATE 160142

1. DPAO REVIEWED PROVISIONS OF U.S.-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ACT WITH NISHIMIYA, NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN FONMIN. FOUND NISHIMIYA ALREADY WELL INFORMED AND OF COURSE DELIGHTED. QUESTIONS WERE MOSTLY TECHNICAL AND ANSWERABLE FROM LANGUAGE OF ACT AND KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. PRELIMINARY REACTIONS OF GREATER IMPORT WERE (1) CULCON HAS A NEW AND MORE IMPORTANT ROLE, (2) A REVISION OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ESTABLISHING THE CULCON JOINT COMMITTEE MAY NOW BECOME NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE--AT LEAST THE NEED FOR A REVISION WILL BE STUDIED, AND (3) SOME SYSTEMATIC FORMAT FOR REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN FOUNDATION AND JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

2. IN HIATUS BETWEEN DEPARTURE OF FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL HORI, NOW AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE, AND ARRIVAL ON SCENE OF NISHIMIYA, JAPANESE SIDE HAS TAKEN NO ACTION ON CULCON VIII. THEY ARE NOW BECOMING MOST CONCERNED THAT EXACT DATES FOR LATE MAY CULCON MEETING MUST BE ESTABLISHED, AND TOPIC OF SYMPOSIUM DECIDED UPON, SO THAT APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL JAPANESE PARTICIPATION CAN BE ENSURED. THEY REQUEST EARLY PROPOSALS ON BOTH DATE AND TOPIC EITHER THROUGH HALL TO MAEDA

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LETTER OR FROM DEPARTMENT THROUGH EMBASSY.

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